

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

OMAR SHARRIEFF GAY,

No. C 08-4472 WHA (PR)

Plaintiff,

ORDER OF SERVICE

v.

J. WOODFORD, Director; M. EVANS,
Warden; L. E. SCRIBNER, Chief Deputy
Warden; G. A. NEOTTI, Chief Deputy
Warden; J. W. LUMAN III, Appeals
Coordinator; G. PONDER, Facility
Captain; J. CELAYA, Facility
Lieutenant; and A. ROMAN,
Correctional Officer,

Defendants.

Plaintiff, an inmate of Salinas Valley State Prison, has filed a pro se civil rights complaint under 42 U.S.C. 1983. Plaintiff also requests leave to proceed in forma pauperis.

DISCUSSION

A. STANDARD OF REVIEW

Federal courts must engage in a preliminary screening of cases in which prisoners seek redress from a governmental entity or officer or employee of a governmental entity. 28 U.S.C. 1915A(a). In its review the court must identify any cognizable claims, and dismiss any claims which are frivolous, malicious, fail to state a claim upon which relief may be granted, or seek monetary relief from a defendant who is immune from such relief. *Id.* at 1915A(b)(1),(2). Pro se pleadings must be liberally construed. *Balistreri v. Pacifica Police Dep't*, 901 F.2d 696, 699

(9th Cir. 1990).

Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 8(a)(2) requires only "a short and plain statement of the claim showing that the pleader is entitled to relief." "Specific facts are not necessary; the statement need only "give the defendant fair notice of what the . . . claim is and the grounds upon which it rests."" *Erickson v. Pardus*, 127 S. Ct. 2197, 2200 (2007) (per curiam) (citations omitted). Although in order to state a claim a complaint "does not need detailed factual allegations, . . . a plaintiff's obligation to provide the 'grounds of his 'entitle[ment] to relief' requires more than labels and conclusions, and a formulaic recitation of the elements of a cause of action will not do. . . . Factual allegations must be enough to raise a right to relief above the speculative level." *Bell Atlantic Corp. v. Twombly*, 127 S. Ct. 1955, 1964-65 (2007) (citations omitted). A complaint must proffer "enough facts to state a claim for relief that is plausible on its face." *Id.* at 1974.

To state a claim under 42 U.S.C. 1983, a plaintiff must allege two essential elements: (1) that a right secured by the Constitution or laws of the United States was violated, and (2) that the violation was committed by a person acting under the color of state law. *West v. Atkins*, 487 U.S. 42, 48 (1988).

B. LEGAL CLAIMS

Plaintiff contends that he was held in his cell without outdoor exercise for two periods, one for ninth months starting on July 14, 2005, and one for seven months starting on June 4, 2007. He alleges that the only time he was allowed out of his cell during the lockdowns was for ten or fifteen minutes every two to three days for a shower. He asserts that this restriction to his cell, without exercise, fresh air, or sunlight, violated his Eighth Amendment rights. He describes in detail the physical ill-effects of the regime, but does not name any health care defendants.

Exercise is one of the basic human necessities protected by the Eighth Amendment. *LeMaire v. Maass*, 12 F.3d 1444, 1457 (9th Cir. 1993). Some form of regular exercise, including outdoor exercise, "is extremely important to the psychological and physical well-being" of prisoners. *Spain v. Procunier*, 600 F.2d 189, 199 (9th Cir. 1979). Prison officials

1 therefore may not deprive prisoners of regular exercise. *Toussaint v. McCarthy*, 597 F. Supp.
2 1388, 1393 (N.D. Cal. 1984). Although the Ninth Circuit has not specified the "minimum
3 amount of weekly exercise that must be afforded to detainees who spend the bulk of their time
4 inside their cells," the court has held that ninety minutes per week of exercise, which is the
5 equivalent of slightly less than thirteen minutes a day, does not comport with Eighth
6 Amendment standards. *Pierce v. County of Orange*, 526 F.3d 1190, 1212 (9th Cir. 2008).

7 All of the defendants are alleged to have been involved in some way with review of
8 plaintiffs grievances regarding the confinement-to-cell policy. This is sufficient to allege that
9 the defendants were aware of the policy and failed to relieve plaintiff of its allegedly-
10 unconstitutional strictures. The complaint may proceed.

11 **C. MOTION FOR COUNSEL**

12 Plaintiff has filed a motion for "appointment" of counsel.

13 There is no constitutional right to counsel in a civil case. *Lassiter v. Dep't of Social*
14 *Services*, 452 U.S. 18, 25 (1981). 28 U.S.C. 1915 confers on a district court only the power to
15 "request" that counsel represent a litigant who is proceeding in forma pauperis. 28 U.S.C.
16 1915(e)(1). This does not give the courts the power to make "coercive appointments of
17 counsel." *Mallard v. United States Dist. Court*, 490 U.S. 296, 310 (1989). In short, the Court
18 has only the power to ask pro bono counsel to represent plaintiff, not the power to "appoint"
19 counsel.

20 Plaintiff is capable of presenting his claims effectively, and the issues, at least at this
21 stage, are not complex. The motion will be denied.

22 **CONCLUSION**

23 1. Plaintiff's motion for appointment of counsel (document number 3 on the docket) is
24 **DENIED.**

25 2. The clerk shall issue summons and the United States Marshal shall serve, without
26 prepayment of fees, copies of the complaint in this matter and copies of this order upon the
27 following defendants: J. Woodford, Former Director, CDCR; M. Evans, Warden; L. E.
28 Scribner, Chief Deputy Warden; G. A. Neotti, Chief Deputy Warden; J. W. Luman III, Appeals

Coordinator; G. Ponder, Facility Captain; J. Celaya, Facility Lieutenant; and A. Roman, Correctional Officer. Plaintiff states that the defendants except Woodford can be found at Salinas Valley State Prison. Woodford might be subject to service through the headquarters of the CDCR in Sacramento.

3. In order to expedite the resolution of this case, the court orders as follows:

a. No later than sixty days from the date of service, defendants shall file a motion for summary judgment or other dispositive motion. If defendants are of the opinion that this case cannot be resolved by summary judgment, they shall so inform the court prior to the date their summary judgment motion is due. All papers filed with the court shall be promptly served on the plaintiff.

b. Plaintiff's opposition to the dispositive motion, if any, shall be filed with the court and served upon defendants no later than thirty days from the date of service of the motion. Plaintiff must read the attached page headed "NOTICE -- WARNING," which is provided to him pursuant to *Rand v. Rowland*, 154 F.3d 952, 953-954 (9th Cir. 1998) (en banc), and *Klinge v. Eikenberry*, 849 F.2d 409, 411-12 (9th Cir. 1988).

If defendants file an unenumerated motion to dismiss claiming that plaintiff failed to exhaust his available administrative remedies as required by 42 U.S.C. § 1997e(a), plaintiff should take note of the attached page headed "NOTICE -- WARNING (EXHAUSTION)," which is provided to him as required by *Wyatt v. Terhune*, 315 F.3d 1108, 1120 n. 4 (9th Cir.), *cert. denied*, *Alameida v. Wyatt*, 124 S.Ct 50 (2003).

c. If defendants wish to file a reply brief, they shall do so no later than fifteen days after the date of service of the opposition.

d. The motion shall be deemed submitted as of the date the reply brief is due. No hearing will be held on the motion unless the court so orders at a later date.

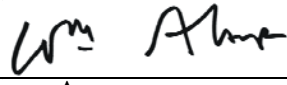
4. All communications by the plaintiff with the court must be served on defendants, or defendants' counsel once counsel has been designated, by mailing a true copy of the document to defendants or defendants' counsel.

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1 5. It is the plaintiff's responsibility to prosecute this case. Plaintiff must keep the court
2 informed of any change of address and must comply with the court's orders in a timely fashion.
3 Failure to do so may result in the dismissal of this action for failure to prosecute pursuant to
4 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b).

5 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

6 Dated: April 8 , 2009.



WILLIAM ALSUP
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

NOTICE -- WARNING (SUMMARY JUDGMENT)

If defendants move for summary judgment, they are seeking to have your case dismissed. A motion for summary judgment under Rule 56 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure will, if granted, end your case.

Rule 56 tells you what you must do in order to oppose a motion for summary judgment. Generally, summary judgment must be granted when there is no genuine issue of material fact--that is, if there is no real dispute about any fact that would affect the result of your case, the party who asked for summary judgment is entitled to judgment as a matter of law, which will end your case. When a party you are suing makes a motion for summary judgment that is properly supported by declarations (or other sworn testimony), you cannot simply rely on what your complaint says. Instead, you must set out specific facts in declarations, depositions, answers to interrogatories, or authenticated documents, as provided in Rule 56(e), that contradict the facts shown in the defendant's declarations and documents and show that there is a genuine issue of material fact for trial. If you do not submit your own evidence in opposition, summary judgment, if appropriate, may be entered against you. If summary judgment is granted, your case will be dismissed and there will be no trial.

NOTICE -- WARNING (EXHAUSTION)

If defendants file an unenumerated motion to dismiss for failure to exhaust, they are seeking to have your case dismissed. If the motion is granted it will end your case.

You have the right to present any evidence you may have which tends to show that you did exhaust your administrative remedies. Such evidence may be in the form of declarations (statements signed under penalty of perjury) or authenticated documents, that is, documents accompanied by a declaration showing where they came from and why they are authentic, or other sworn papers, such as answers to interrogatories or depositions.

If defendants file a motion to dismiss and it is granted, your case will be dismissed and there will be no trial.